

NEW BOOKS.

Continued from Seventh Page.

statistics. There is an excellent table giving the history of the consols, and also a new condensed "History of the World" for last year. A special edition is issued for Canada.

"Whitaker's Peerage for 1904" (J. Whitaker & Sons, London) is the eighth annual issue, and has few changes beyond the needful. It contains in a small compass nearly everything that is usually sought for in the large and expensive peerages, and a great deal of other information, arranged in convenient form. The inclusion that provides the lists is an admirable compendium of information about all that concerns British titles.

United Asia.

An interesting view of one phase of Oriental thought, that will attract attention not only because it presents ideas novel to the Western mind, but also because these are expressed clearly by a Japanese who has thoroughly mastered the English language, will be found in "The Ideals of the East," by Kakau Okakura (E. P. Dutton & Co.). It is an eloquent plea for Asia, that is to say, Japan, China and India, to hold to its own traditions and seek its development within itself in opposition to the civilization of the West.

The author shows that Asia is one essentially in race, in thought, in religion and in art. He traces the influence of common ideals on life and specifically in the manner of looking upon art. He maintains that what good can come in the future to Asia must come from the retention of their own traditions and characteristics, and by their natural development in their own way. He urges Asia to unite. The book is bright, logical, incisive and so far as regards the language, and style might have been written by some highly educated Englishman or American.

New York's Tenements.

The report of the commission appointed by the Governor of New York in 1900 to investigate the various questions relating to tenement houses, has been digested, chiefly by members of the commission, and the digests, supplemented by additional information, are presented to the public in two large volumes, "The Tenement House Problem" (Macmillan). The editors are Robert W. De Forest and Lawrence Veiller, the chairman and secretary of the commission.

In the form of separate articles with irrelevant matter omitted, the results of that important investigation become naturally more readable than the official report could be and will consequently reach a larger public. We find a history of tenement house reform in New York city, accounts of the conditions and laws in American and foreign cities, articles on fire and fire-escapes, on sanitation, on tuberculosis, on the enforcement of the laws, on the many evils attaching to tenement life, on parks and playgrounds and other pertinent topics. The present Tenement House Act is given in full, as is the act creating the Tenement House Department in New York city.

Holiday Art Books.

A new set of art books is offered to amateurs by G. P. Putnam's Sons in conjunction with Methuen & Co. of London in "The Connoisseur's Library," in twenty volumes, edited by Mr. Cyril Davenport. Judging from the first volume, these are for the shelves and in no sense handbooks, being "wide royal octavos," almost small quartos. They are made up in England, and the typography and get up are exquisite. The volumes are intended to cover most of the "Minor Arts," and the prospectus is very enticing. The first volume printed, the fifteenth in the series, is by the editor. It deals with "Mezzotint" and indicates the character of the series. It deals with the subject in a pleasant, popular style that should attract the public to the study of engravings, but which, we fear, will give the experienced collector little new information. There are accounts of the chief mezzotint engravers, with examples of their work. The pictures are good as illustrations, but we are inclined to think that better processes of reproduction might have brought out more clearly the special peculiarities of the engravings.

An unusually good book on furniture, considering the perfunctory way in which it is made up, is "French and English Furniture," by Esther Singleton (McClure, Phillips & Co.). We suppose the text was put together to explain Mr. H. D. Nichols's excellent and instructive pictures. It does not deviate far from the catalogue style, but it has the merit of that style, of limiting itself to the technical description of the articles offered for inspection. Louis Treize, Louis Quatorze, Louis Quinze, Louis Seize, Empire, cover the French styles, while the English chapters are entitled Jacobean, Queen Anne, Early Georgian, Chippendale, Adam, Heppelwhite and Sheraton. Young housekeepers will acquire correct ideas about the furniture they cannot buy from this book, and may at least form a judgment as to the plausibility of the imitations.

A classical work on the great Dutch artist, M. Emile Michel's "Rembrandt, His Life, His Work and His Time," translated by Florence Simmonds, is published in a third, cheaper, edition by William Heinemann and Charles Scribner's Sons. The text is revised and corrected, and all the illustrations are included. It is doubtless a benefit that this important work should be popularized, and the pictures, particularly those in the text, will give some idea of what Rembrandt did. The full page process pictures, however, will make every one who has seen a genuine Rembrandt, painting or engraving, cry his teeth. A few first class reproductions would show what Rembrandt means in art, better than a mass of mediocre prints. Still, the public can now obtain an authoritative book on a very great artist for a moderate price, and with it a view of the quantity of work produced by him.

Lord Balcarras, eldest son and heir of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarras, has written a careful and very interesting study on the Florentine sculptor Donatello (Duckworth & Co., Charles Scribner's Sons). His knowledge of Renaissance sculpture is profound, and he treats Donatello's work with judicious discrimination, but with the tender admiration that it inspires in all who have seen it. It is to be regretted that for so great an artist and so excellent a book such cheap process pictures should have been thought sufficient. They give an idea of the subject, but rarely of the quality of the work.

Fiction of Divers Kinds.

A pretty romance has been built up about the mania for collecting by Rowell Field in "The Bondage of Ballinger" (Fleming H. Revell Company). We may feel more kindness for the collector of books than for the collector of coins or postage stamps, but the craze is the same. For the wandering fever, too, Mr. Field shows a natural sympathy. We fancy, however, that the reader will be

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By Winthrop Packard

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HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO., Publishers

attracted more to the patient wife, to the enthusiastic girl and the others who make the bibliomaniac's life easy for him. It is extremely pleasant reading.

Gore flows without stint in "The Cuban Treasure Island," by William Patrick Kelly (E. P. Dutton & Co.). The usual piratical elements of a treasure-seeking tale are mingled with the doing of the New Orleans Mafia and with a volcanic eruption, perhaps with undue violence. The narrative is exciting and holds the reader's attention in spite of no great originality and of some absurdities.

Probability and common sense are thrown to the winds in "The Duke Decides" by Headon Hill (A. Wessels Company). Should the reader accept the premises and the impossible characters he will still find it difficult to swallow the "detective" plot.

A pitfall for reviewers is opened by the republication of a story under a changed name. We cannot say that the alteration of "Dainty Devils" into "Mrs. J. Wood" succeeds in presenting to his reader a pretty impossible brute, but those who can be harrowed by historical romance may be able to read the story to the end. It is told through the worn out device of making the narrator a hysterical admirer of the heroine.

R. L. Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" is published in a new edition by the

Scott-Thaw Company for the purpose, apparently, of bringing out Mr. Charles Raymond Macaulay's pictures. These hardly deserve such distinction. Some are not bad, but few are illustrative. The print, however, is attractive, and those who wish to have the story by itself will probably be glad to find it in this shape.

Other Books.

Whether he is looked upon as "Bloody Claverhouse" or "Bonny Dundee" John Graham stands as a strong and picturesque figure in the Scottish history of the Stuarts. His biography has been written for the "Famous Scots Series" by Louis A. Barbé in "Viscount Dundee" (Charles Scribner's Sons). It seems queer that forty Scots should have been found worthy of a place in the series before him, nearly half of them of pretty limited fame outside of Scotland.

Feminine literary circles will be pleased with Mr. Hamilton Wright Mabie's amiable prattle of authors and the places where they lived in "Backgrounds of Literature" (The Outlook Company). He gives his appreciation of Goethe in Weimar and Emerson in Concord and of the Lorna Doone country and Walter Scott's country and the Lake poets and so on. It is the sort of talk about authors that some people prefer to listen to rather than read those authors' books. There are good pictures. Mr. Charles Hemstreet continues to do New York in the irritatingly impressionistic way that just misses the exact statement of fact that would be useful. In "Literary New York" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) he wanders over the town again with a literary

Continued on Ninth Page.

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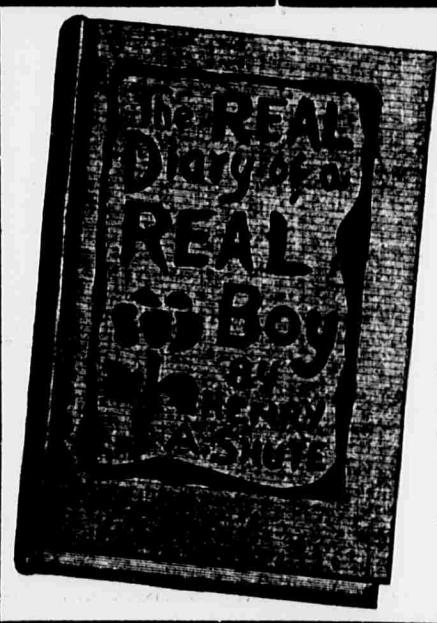
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